

March 25, 1968

Honorable J.W. Fulbright
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I refer again to your letter of February 1 to Secretary Rusk relating to the seizure of the Pueblo. The questions contained in your letter have been intensively studied in the Executive Branch. Because of the predominantly military character of many of the problems raised, the Department of Defense has prepared the answers to Questions 1-7 (except the last part of Question 4), 12, 14, 15, and 18. Other Departments and Agencies concerned have been consulted and have contributed, and this Department, in addition to providing the balance of the answers, has collated and assembled the material.

Policies regarding intelligence-gathering activities such as those of the Pueblo are established by a high-level, inter-agency committee, and are approved by the Secretaries of State and Defense. Particular missions are authorized by senior officials who are designated as Department and Agency representatives for this purpose. In connection with your Questions 1 and 4, our review of the procedures by which the mission of the Pueblo was approved has shown that in this Department, the Department of Defense, and other Agencies concerned with these matters, including the staff of the White House, the established procedures were followed and the mission was known to and approved by the senior officials who are the designated representatives of Department and Agency heads. The particular intelligence plan involving the Pueblo was agreed to in late December by all the agencies involved, including the Department of State. The Secretary of State and other Department or

Agency

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Agency heads carry the responsibility for these actions by their designated representatives. (Further discussions of Questions 1 and 4 are attached at Tabs 1 and 4.)

In the case of Questions 5, 12, and 14, full compliance with the Committee's request would involve the transmittal of a large volume of military documents and data. This material is both highly technical and highly sensitive. If the information provided herewith on these military matters does not meet the Committee's needs, I will be glad to discuss with you and with the Department of Defense what further arrangements might be made.

In the case of Question 10, we feel that it would be harmful to our intelligence gathering activities to release or reduce the security classification of the balance of the material intercepted from North Korean sources before, during, and after the seizure of the Pueblo. (For the complete data on ship positions referred to by Ambassador Goldberg see Tab 10.) An intensive re-examination of this material has been made. This has reinforced earlier firm evidence that the Pueblo was seized in international waters on January 23 and that North Korea knew this to be the case. It has not thrown any new light on the events of previous days or on other points of substance. In particular, it has not provided any indication that the Pueblo might, at some time before its seizure, have approached closer than thirteen miles to some point of North Korean territory. Even though we do not have reliable evidence regarding the track of the Pueblo from January 12 to January 22, we continue to believe that at no time did the Pueblo penetrate closer to North Korea than thirteen miles, which was the limit set in the ship's sailing order.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosures:

Questions and Answers 1-20

Clearances: See attached.

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Clearances: (A reply to Senator Fulbright's inquiry
of February 1, 1968 on Pueblo incident.)

The Secretary

H - Mr. White
Mr. Macomber

KTF - Mr. Yager
Amb. Brown

EA/P - Mr. Armstrong

IO - Mr. Gleysteen
Mr. Sisco

L - Mr. Aldrich
Mr. Meeker

G/PM - Mr. Brown
Mr. Farley

INR - Mr. Farrior
Mr. McAfee
Mr. Hughes

DOD/ISA - Capt. Grojean
Mr. Warnke

CIA - [redacted] STATINTL
Adm. Taylor

NSA - Adm. Schulz

Drafted by: Korean Task Force - James F. Leonard/cc

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2			
3			
4			
5	Senate Foreign Relations		
6			
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
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Remarks:

Attached are a set of questions from Senator Fulbright addressed to Secretary Rusk and the answers thereto. CIA participated in answering a few of the questions and reviewed the package before it was transmitted.

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The attached note from [redacted] states that he would like one of us to keep the package and to let him know who has it. We are willing to keep it in our files unless you need to retain it.

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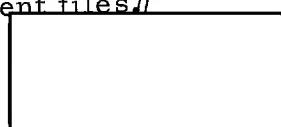
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Remarks:

Ray:

Discussed the attached with Admiral Taylor who would like to be sure the document is available for ready reference. Please let me know whether you or OLC retains; we have no preference as to which. Whoever retains for the time being ought to send the material on to vital records when it is purged from current files.

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Remarks:

Attached are the Fulbright questions and answers, with one specified exception. I will be glad to hold these if no one else--such as Legislative Counsel--is interested. IF LC wants them, we'd like to see them again first.

Ray

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